

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0025] A platen 16 is disposed below the carriage 11 so as to extend in the ~~sub-scanning~~main scanning direction and to be opposite to the nozzle surface 2a of the recording head 2. As shown in FIGS. 2 and 4, the platen 16 includes a box-shaped frame whose upper surface includes a flat upper plate 18 opposed to the nozzle surface 2a of the recording head 2. The upper plate 18 is integrally provided with a plurality of ribs 17, which protrude from the upper surface of the upper plate 18 and extend in a recording medium conveying direction (hereinafter, referred to as a sub-scanning direction), perpendicular to the main scanning direction, at predetermined intervals provided therebetween in the main scanning direction. The upper plate 18 and the ribs 17 define a plurality of grooves 19 (FIG. 4) extending in a direction parallel to the recording medium conveying direction (sub-scanning direction). In each of the grooves 19, suction holes 20 are provided in upstream and downstream end portions with respect to the recording sheet conveying direction so as to communicate with the lower portion of the frame. The suction holes 20 are provided in the upstream and downstream end portions near an image forming area defined by the recording head 2. The box-shaped frame of the platen 16 constitutes a suction chamber. A suction unit 21, such as a suction fan, is connected to a lower portion of the suction chamber.